

THE WAR.

Border Skirmishes and First Blood.

Prussian Invasion of French Territory and a French Advance on Prussian Soil.

A FEW MEN KILLED ON BOTH SIDES.

The Queen of Prussia Bids Farewell to the Rhinelanders.

Italy Demonstrates for Prussia—Irish for France.

Napoleon May Proclaim a Universal Republic.

ENGLAND.

SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD.

First Blood—Prussian Invasion of the Soil of France—A Skirmish—The Prussians Retire.

LONDON, July 24—4 P. M.

A special telegram from Coblenz, just to hand in this city, states that a Prussian force from Saarbrücken crossed the French border last Saturday, making a war reconnaissance in the direction of St. Avold and Metz.

After proceeding some distance the men encountered an outpost of the French (the "enemy"). A brisk skirmish ensued between the reconnoitring party and a detachment of French chasseurs.

The Prussians retired, leaving two of their men on the field. It is believed the French lost ten or twelve men killed.

It is confidently asserted that the Prussians are strengthening their position as a base of operations, and that their commanders intend to throw a force down the line of the Saar; thus carrying an offensive war right into the territory and waging it on the soil of France.

FRANCE.

The Prussians Repulsed—French Troops Cross the Line—Commercial Marine Neutral—The Paris Fortifications Armed—Napoleon May Proclaim a Universal Republic.

LONDON, July 24—Evening.

The following despatch has been received from Paris:

FORNACE, Department of Moselle, July 23, 1870.

The Prussians have been repulsed at Cateau and a reconnaissance on Prussian soil has been made by the French troops.

The French government insists on adhering to the policy previously announced of treating neutral shipping the same as in 1854, no regard being paid to the Paris Convention.

The Algerian cities are volunteering recruits for the French army.

The Hanoverian refugees in this city are organizing for the service of France.

Prussia is threatening Denmark.

The fortifications of Paris are being fully armed and manned.

The Emperor Napoleon will proclaim a republic at once, Europe should be a monarchical combination be formed against his army and dynasty during the war.

The Bank of France is paying the demands on that institution in silver only.

PRUSSIA.

Naval Cruisers North—A Government Loan on American Securities—The French Declaration of War—The Queen's Farewell to the Rhinelanders.

BRUSSELS, July 24, via LONDON—Evening.

Prussian vessels are cruising in the Channel and North Sea to intercept supplies of coal for the French fleet.

The Bank of Frankfurt has loaned Prussia five millions of thalers on a deposit of American stock as security.

The following French document which Prussia has received from France since the beginning of the quarrel reached here at half-past one P. M. on Tuesday last and was the declaration of war. It declares that the Emperor of the French is obliged to consider the proposal to elevate a Prussian prince to the throne of Spain as an attack on the security of France, and he desires that Prussia disavow the scheme. This Prussia refused to do, reserving her right to be governed by circumstances. The Emperor says he is forced to consider the determination as equally menacing to France and the European equilibrium, and particularly as it was rendered the more significant by the communication made by Prussia to the Cabinets of Europe, giving an account of the refusal to receive the French Ambassador.

The paper concludes thus:—"The French government, therefore, is taking steps for the defence of its honor and its interests, and has adopted all measures which the circumstances render necessary, considers itself at war with Prussia."

The Queen of Prussia, on leaving the Rhine provinces for Berlin, issued a farewell address to the inhabitants. She says "she has lived twenty years among them, and has experienced nothing but their attachment and devotion for the King, his children and herself. She would willingly stay, but sacred duties call her elsewhere. The enthusiasm of Germany is the voice of God. Her sufferings in the past and the blessings which have followed them for half a century warrant continued trust in Him for good and eternity."

ITALY.

Government Neutrality—The People for Prussia.

BRUSSELS, July 24, 1870.

A proclamation announcing the strict neutrality of Italy in the pending war was issued to-day at Florence.

Large demonstrations have been made in Milan, Padua and Genoa in favor of Prussia.

AUSTRIA.

Neutral and for Peace.

PARIS, July 24, 1870.

The official journal of Austria says that the government, having exhausted all means of mollifying Napoleon and preventing war, has resolved to observe strict neutrality, but, at the same time, keeps up a careful watch for chances of a peaceful settlement.

IRELAND.

Special Telegram to the Herald—Popular Demonstration in Favor of France.

LONDON, July 24—P. M.

Despatches by telegraph from Dublin, in this city to-day, report that there was another great demonstration in favor of the French in the Irish capital on Saturday.

There were 6,000 persons present, and speeches were delivered by prominent Fenians in support of the object of the assemblage.

RUSSIA.

General Policy—Humane Towards the Combatants.

PARIS, July 24, 1870.

Russia announces her determination to use all means of limiting the theatre of war and abridging its duration.

BRUSSELS, July 24, 1870.

Despatches from St. Petersburg, dated Saturday, declare that Russia will maintain her neutrality.

WAR DESPATCHES BY MAIL.

By the steamship America, at this port yesterday, we received the following highly important mail details in the latest news of the actual origin of the great war between France and Prussia.

The general alarm of the surrounding Powers and houses is also reported. A terrific slaughter was expected to ensue.

PARIS, July 24, 1870.

France on the Eve of War with Prussia—A Terrible Slaughter Expected—Minor Issues Obliterated.

Our eyes are wandering from Blois to the Rhine. Within a few days my letters may be written from the *haut-cour*, or the headquarters, of the French army on the frontier. A declaration of war would of course obliterate all interest in the great conflict, and I may once more find myself surrounded unexpectedly with the pomp and panoply of war.

It is urging two great nations to a deadly strife, but which may yet by a miracle—and a miracle alone—be averted. Should there be war between Prussia and France it will be terrible, and its slaughter unparalleled in military history; but the military efficiency of that country is at the present moment incredible; on the other, that war would have long since been declared by France but that she is not satisfied with her Chassepots.

Yesterday an *ex-sous-officier*, who had been in the Crimea said that during the war nothing struck him more forcibly than the difference between the Prussian and English troops. The latter acted as machines, while the former were human beings.

They were obedient and stubborn until death. The indomitable, unwavering pluck displayed was astonishing. "With our men," he continued, "it is different. The slightest check disheartens, and it is next to impossible to rally them. Should they be successful in the first push with the Prussians it will go badly with poor France."

THE ARMY.

The French army, as we have seen for the first time, is now passing as a passing show, and in a few days, should there be war, which God forbid—I shall be glad to follow, if it is possible, their fortune in the field, for they will be well to the front.

Within a few hours it is probable that the question of peace or war will be decided. The Minister of Foreign Affairs declared in conversation with some of the members of the Corps Législatif, "that certain that within three days we shall come to the end of the affair—peace or war." The government displays at this present moment an energy to which this country is but little accustomed.

The Prince Napoleon, who is quietly on board his yacht, bound for Greenland, with a party of savants has been suddenly recalled.

There are constant conferences at St. Cloud in the presence of the Emperor between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, of War, of the Navy and of Justice.

Another ominous sign, but which, but for the quarrelsome state in which we are might pass without remark, is that all the Emperor's saddle horses made their appearance at Vincennes last week, and the artillery firing without doubt to become accustomed to the sound of the cannon.

My eye long ago turned to the Emperor, and I am sure, long ago, that he is expected, personally assume the command-in-chief, with the Prince Imperial attached to his staff.

Marchal Bazaine will take command of the Army of the Moselle, the chief of his staff will be General Cissey, with the headquarters at Metz.

Marchal MacMahon, ordered from Algeria, will operate on the Rhine, with General Lebrun as chief of the staff. Generals Frossard and Boubaki will march with him. Generals Montanban and Changarnier will operate on the Spanish frontiers.

As to the armament of the six largest transports of the reserve, which are in fact in every branch of the public service the activity displayed warrants the belief that war is imminent.

All the men on leave of absence from the army and navy have received instructions not to absent themselves from their homes, so as to be prepared to return to their posts at an instant's notice.

AT METZ.

M. Benedetti, the French Ambassador at the Prussian Court, arrived at Metz yesterday, to demand of King William an immediate reply. In government circles it is expected that the answer will arrive in Paris to-morrow. The only news of importance from Spain is the official notification made to the European Powers by the Spanish government of the candidature of Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern.

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CHASSEPOTS.

Chassepots, the effect for the first time at Metz. Its effect was terrible, and the delighted commander of the French troops exclaimed, "Chassepots, Chassepots!" In Algeria the rapidity of firing and the range of the Chassepots were wonderful. The powerful tribes Doni-Menna and the Beni-Said were forced to submit within two days, although literally covered with the blood of the Chassepots. There is little doubt that the effect of the Chassepots will be a revolution at the time of the late *lebens*. There is nothing new under the sun. The breech-loaders were actually proposed during the time of Napoleon. The Emperor is said to have foreseen and understood the advantages which would accrue from their introduction. It is a pity that the Chassepots were not used at the time of the late *lebens*. There is a revolver matchlock musket and an arm called *Amalgam* of the late *lebens*. The Chassepots were used at the time of the late *lebens*. 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